

To: Nick Jones
From: Richard Grossman
Re: Black Eagle Solidarity Dinner

Oct. 1, 1976

The Black Eagle Solidarity Dinner, planned for Oct. 10, is moving along on schedule. The work on the program book, for which we sold ads and sponsors, is finished and the book is at the printers. The ads were \$100 for a full page, \$50 for a half page, and \$25 for a quarter page. We have 50 pages of ads for a total of \$5,000. We have about 125 ads, 75 from unions and 30 from churches or clergy. Almost all the money for the ads is already received. The rest is pledged from sources we feel are reliable, e.g. a union where they have voted to take out an ad but haven't sent in the check.

The other part of the program book is the sponsorships. We again had three categories: \$100 sponsor, \$50 patron, \$25 donor. The total for the sponsorships is about \$4500. We have about 125 sponsors, patrons, or donors, about 25 which are clergy or churches, 10 from unions, and the rest individuals. Again most of the money is in for the sponsors. Also a number of people felt they couldn't afford to become a sponsor so they just sent in a donation. This totals about \$250 more.

To get the ads and sponsors we sent out close to 3500 letters. The Illinois State Federation of Labor sent out a letter we had prepared from the labor committee to all AFL-CIO locals in Illinois. The Lake County Indiana (Gary-East Chicago) AFL-CIO Central Labor Union mailed the same letter to all its locals. We also mailed letters to all those on our lists who had contributed over the last couple of years. We had a letter to individuals for sponsors, a letter to churches for ads, and a letter to organizations and business for ads (samples enclosed).

We had the labor committee do the follow-up on the labor letters. A few labor leaders sent out individual letters to locals in their unions, e.g. Bob Healey president of the Chicago Teachers Union to all the Teachers locals in northern Illinois and Mike Stone of the URW (see enclosure). Supporters and staff did the follow-up on the rest. We had about 25 supporters phoning for the follow-up. On Aug. 15 we had a training session for the supporters and staff on doing the follow-up. After that everyone doing follow-up called twice a week, Thursday and Sunday, to report back on their success. That continued through the deadlines of Sept 17 for ads and Sept 24 for sponsors.

The other major way we are trying to raise money is through ticket sales. The tickets are \$3.00 for an individual and \$10.00 for a family in advance and \$4.00 and \$12.00 at the door. We have money in for only about 400 tickets, almost all individual. We have distributed

Solidarity Dinner Continued

about 1200 tickets to unions and most of the money in is from unions. We have about 200 more union tickets definitely sold but the money is not in yet. We have about 2500 tickets distributed to supporters. Our follow-up on ticket sales has been very weak. People were suppose to report once a week but because of my concern over ads and sponsors I was lax in pushing the ticket follow-up. Now I know of only about 150 tickets sold by our supporters. I am sure there are many more sold but I just don't know. Ticket sales, and the number of people we expect at the Dinner, is one of the weakest spots of the Dinner.

The publicity on the Dinner is moving along. The Chicago Teachers Union and the Steelworkers newspapers both had articles on the Dinner (copy of article in Steel Labor enclosed). P.S.A.'s to the radio stations have been mailed out. Press releases to the major media will be sent out at the beginning of next week. Our newsletter went out last weekend with a long article on the Dinner. Leaflets and posters have been distributed (copy of leaflet enclosed, poster is just a larger, 15 x 22 inches, version). Also, at the Illinois State Fed. of Labor convention we leafleted all the delegates.

The program the day of the Dinner is looking pretty good. From 3:00 to 5:00pm will be the Dinner, buffet style. The meal will be bicultural, trying to represent the workers from both the Southwest and the South. The main dish will be chicken mole and roasted chicken, with beans and rice on the side. At the same time as the meal we will be having a movie room. We plan to show Why We Boycott, the Inheritance, a slide show on the clinics, and a very good home movie on our activities here concentrateing on a mass picketline at Jewel a couple of years ago.

At 5:00pm the actual program will start. The m.c.'s will be Carl Sheir, an international rep for the UAW, and Rev. Olga Sandman, director of the Illinois Farm Worker Ministry. The first group will be singers, El Grupo Latino. Next 2 teatro groups, Compania Trucha and Teatro Del Barrios, will put on a joint act. Then will be Eliseo. Ending will be Grupo Latino leading singing of Solidarity Forever and We Shall Overcome. The program should end about 6:00pm. After that we will have music for those who want to stay and dance or socialize. It should all be over by 10:00pm.

That is a general outline of what has happened and what is planned for the Dinner. The ads and sponsors looks pretty good. The ticket sales are still weak. As you know, we still haven't hustled all the food which is a major weak point. We have hustled so far, over \$500 in postage, the hall (normally rents for \$500), the layout of the program book (worth about \$700), about \$75 worth of office supplies, and printing (final cost unknown). I'll give you a final report on everything after the Dinner is over.



MILAN O. STONE, District Director

DISTRICT No. 4

UNITED RUBBER, CORK, LINOLEUM AND PLASTIC WORKERS OF AMERICA
AFL-CIO, CLC 409 Cleveland Building Rock Island, Illinois 61201

September 13, 1976

Telephone: Area Code 309
786-6479
786-6470

TO: Presidents, URW Local Unions in Illinois

Greetings:

Enclosed herewith is a communication from the United Farm Workers setting forth their plans for a Black Eagle Solidarity Dinner to be held in Chicago, Illinois on Sunday, October 10, 1976.

Also enclosed is an envelope to be used to advise the UFW if you wish to purchase an ad or purchase tickets. Also enclosed is a leaflet developed by the United Farm Workers setting forth the event.

The United Farm Workers Chicago office helped us tremendously during our recent strike, especially with regards to the Firestone Boycott. They picketed Firestone stores in Minneapolis, Milwaukee, Chicago, St. Louis and Kansas City. Without their help there would have been little if any boycott activity in the cities enumerated. Now is our chance to return the favor.

I strongly urge your Local Union to buy as big an ad as you can afford and to purchase as many dinner tickets as you possibly can. I plan to attend this function myself and if your Local Union would advise this office as to how many will attend, from your Local Union, we can meet at a place ahead of 3:00 on Sunday and go to the dinner as a Rubber Workers group.

I am sure you will find the program put on by the Farm Workers to be very moving and one you will not easily forget. I can think of no group in America who warrants our help and support more than the United Farm Workers. By responding to this request you will not only be assisting a very worthy group, in a very worthy cause, but in a small way be returning to them the support they gave to us in our most recent struggle with the Big 4 rubber companies.

With best wishes to you and the membership of your Local Union and looking forward to seeing you in Chicago on October 10, I am

Fraternally yours,

Milan Stone
Milan Stone
District Director

MS:dp
encls.

cc: Peter Bommarito
Kenneth Oldham
Ike Gold
John Scaglione

James Johnson
Joseph Zanoni
Richard Grossman ✓

